

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

Volume 111, No. 11

November, 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS



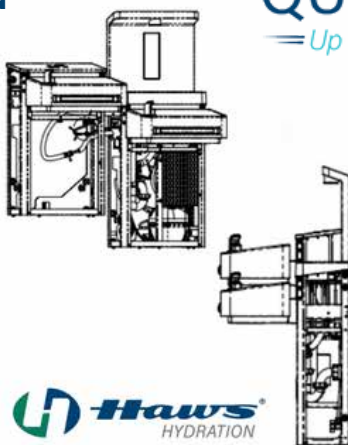
Haws
Since 1906

Over **100 Years** of Hydration Innovation

Hydration Station™

ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS & BOTTLE FILLERS

- COMPETITIVE PRICE POINT
- FUNCTIONAL DESIGN
- CONTEMPORARY
- RELIABLE SAFETY
Auto Purge & Filtration



Haws
QUICKInstall
Up to 50% faster



INLAND SALES GROUP - WILLOWBROOK
INLANDSALESGROUP.COM



HAWSCO.COM

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING CONTRACTORS



Volume 111, No. 11



NOVEMBER 2025

OFFICERS

President

Kevin Kuhn
Oswego

Secretary

Anthony Brown
Posen

Vice President

Tom Mahoney
Highland Park

President Emeritus

Terry McCarthy
Countryside

Treasurer

John Baethke
Chicago

Executive Director

Beverly Potts

Associate Director

Shelly Lott

CONTENTS

President's Thoughts	4, 5
Fall Membership Special	5
Calendar of Events	6
Thanks to our Illinois Master Plumber Advertisers	6
2025-26 Illinois PHCC CEU Schedule	7
Thanks to our Associate Members	8
Thanks to our Sponsors for their support throughout the year	9
Thank you to our 2025 Exhibitors	10
Mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training	12
2026 Exposition Application & Contract	13, 14
Plumbing Code Book Order Form	16
IL PHCC Contractors Application for Membership	18
OSHA ON-SITE Safety & Health Consultation Program	19, 20
Risk Management Corner	21
SkillsUSA Selects Connecticut Plumbing Apprentice for 2026 WorldSkills Competition	22, 23, 24
IL PHCC Associate Membership Application	25
IL PHCC Inspector Application for Membership	26

The Illinois Master Plumber published monthly, is the official publication of the Illinois Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, only insofar as notices, bulletins, and reports are concerned.

Editorial and personalized news stories reflect the opinions of the writers, and not necessarily that of the Association. Neither the Association nor this magazine accepts responsibility for statements or claims made by advertisers for their products or services.

POSTMASTER: Please Forward Change of Address Notice on Form 3578 and Copies Returned Label Form 3579.

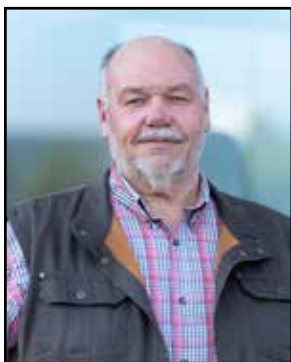
To: Illinois PHCC
821 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Telephone (217) 522-7219
BEV@ILPHCC.COM
WWW.ILPHCC.COM

EDITORIAL AND EXECUTIVE OFFICES

821 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Telephone: (217) 522-7219
FAX: (217) 522-4315
1 (800) 795-PHCC

ADVERTISERS

Bradford White	5
Connor Company	Inside Back Cover
Federated Insurance	15
H.R. Stewart	4
Herkowski Stickler & Associates	9, 11
Hodes	20
Inland Sales	Inside Front Cover
Metropolitan Industries, Inc.	17
Test Gauge	Back Cover
Torvac	24



PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Many Thanks - by Kevin Kuhn
Illinois PHCC President

November marks the launch of the annual holiday season in America. As the leaves change color and fall to the ground, we anticipate Thanksgiving celebrations. It's a time of year that we look back and yet anticipate good things to come. As we reflect on our blessings of family, friends, and colleagues, I would like through this month's column to also recognize our valued industry partners and peers.

The Illinois PHCC is primarily comprised of contractors in the plumbing and HVAC industries. It's in our name and it's why we were formed in the first place. But our chapter has a long and proud tradition of welcoming and appreciating Associate members – the devoted businesses and organizations that contribute mightily to our industry. It's the product manufacturers; sales teams and distributors; professional service providers; and the array of other partners helping us keep our customers satisfied.

We also appreciate the advertisers in this publication. By sharing their messages and what they offer our contractors, they simultaneously provide additional financial support that further fuels our State Chapter's ability to provide even more value to our members. We also are grateful for the exhibitors at the annual Expo; the instructors leading our CEU classes; the plumbing inspectors; the officials at the IDPH for their ongoing assistance and insights; and the local chapter associations for their loyalty and efforts on behalf of the PHCC statewide and nationally. I could go on and on. We cannot thank them all enough.

Autumn also coincides with another observance in the U.S.: Veteran's Day. This year on November 11, we pay tribute to all who have served in our Armed Forces, whether living or deceased. It's a day of remembrance to recognize their courage, honor, and



H.R. STEWART, INC.

Heavy Sewer Cleaning & Televising

- Sewer Jetting – up to 72 inches
- Steerable Mainline Televising – 4 to 72 inch, lengths up to 850 feet
- Push Camera – 3 to 6 inch, lengths up to 500 feet
- Catch Basin Cleaning
- Root Cutting & Destroying
- Air & Mandrel Testing
- Hydro-Excavation
- Municipal Work



H.R. Stewart, Inc.
(847) 639-3331
WWW.HRSTEWART.COM

sacrifice in protecting American freedoms. Many of our industry peers have fulfilled this honorable role and have earned our admiration and our thanks.

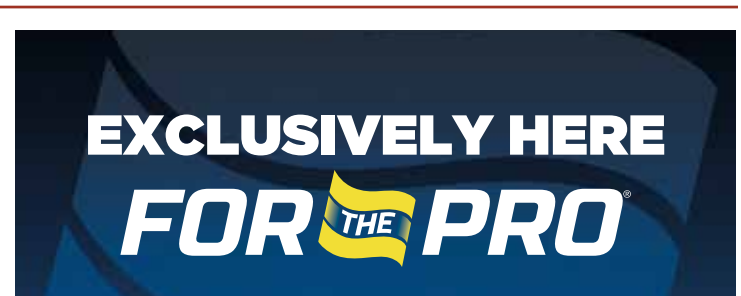
Lastly, I wish to congratulate our State Chapter Executive Director, Bev Potts, on receiving the “Illinois CCCDI Service Award” at this year’s Illinois Backflow Symposium on October 23, marking her achievements and dedication to the plumbing trade. As most of you know, Bev is a licensed plumber. She completed her apprenticeship while employed in her family’s plumbing business – eventually rising to head the company. The IL PHCC Chapter (as well as the Bloomington/Normal PHCC, which she also leads) continues to benefit greatly from her organizational skills, passion for plumbing, innovation and tireless efforts to strengthen and protect licensing, strong codes and ongoing education. Never one to seek the “spotlight,” Bev is always ready to help our members and is diligent in bringing together professionals involved in our industry with the sole goal of making it better. In closing, it’s my pleasure – on behalf of all of us involved with the IL PHCC – to salute our friend and peer, Bev Potts.

- *Until next month, all the best - Kevin*



FALL MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL!

If you are not currently a PHCC member, now is the perfect time to join! Any new member who joins PHCC between now and December 31st of 2025, will have their dues paid through December 31, 2026. That gives you free bonus months of membership benefits for FREE for the rest of 2025, and locks in your 2026 dues at the 2025 rate. See the membership application in this issue. Questions? Call or email the Illinois PHCC at 800-795-PHCC, bev@ilphcc.com or shelly@ilphcc.com.



FOR THE PRO
Join Now.

Scan here to learn about the tools
and resources available to you
through our mobile app!



©2025, Bradford White Corporation. All rights reserved. BWPIL1125

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 12, 2025

IMSCA Meeting
Oak Brook, IL

MARCH 21, 2026

IL PHCC & Auxiliary Board Meetings
Hilton Suites Hotel
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

JANUARY 9, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

MARCH 23-25, 2026

QSC of PHCC Catalyst
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

MAY 5-6, 2026

PHCC National Legislative Conference
Washington, DC

FEBRUARY 24-27, 2026

CCA of PHCC Spring Meeting
Park City, Utah

OCTOBER 19-22, 2026

CONNECT 2026
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MARCH 20, 2026

IL PHCC Expo & Educational Day
Drury Lane Conference Center
Oakbrook Terrace, IL



THANKS TO OUR ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER ADVERTISERS

Acorn

Bradford White

Bloomington/Normal PHCC

Connor Company

Federated Insurance Company

HSA of Illinois



Hodes Company

H.R. Stewart

Inland Sales Group

Illinois Plumbing Education Assn.

Illinois Plumbing Inspectors Assn.

Metropolitan Industries



*Midwest Illinois Mechanical
Contractors Association*

PCA of Greater Chicago

RepCo Sales

Test Gauge & Backflow Supply

Torvac

Support Those Who Support Us !!

2025/26 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

The Illinois PHCC schedule for online and in-person classes for the 2026 renewal year is listed below. These classes offer a minimum of 3 different speakers and topics in each class.

All Illinois PHCC classes will provide State hours for Certified Inspectors and Licensed Plumbers.

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. Please visit our website at www.ilphcc.com for the latest information and to register for a class. Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.

2025–2026 Continuing Education Dates

Friday, September 26, 2025

12:00pm – 4:00 pm

(Online)

Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

(Online)

Friday, November 14, 2025

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Online)

Friday, January 9, 2026

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Online)

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

(Online)

Friday, March 20, 2026 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

(In person)

Friday, April 24, 2026

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Online)



Thanks to our Associate Members



Added Sales Co.
Allan J. Coleman
Ameren
Auburn Supply Company, Inc.
Boilersource
Capitol Group, Inc.
Clean USA Water & Fire Restoration
Connor Company
Equipment Controls Company
Evergreen Sales
Fassett Sales Co., Inc.
Federated Insurance Co.
Friedman & Dorrans Sales
Glentronics
Go Dry Chicago
Hart, Travers, & Associates Inc.
Hodes Company
HSA of Illinois LLC
ILLCO
Illinois Plumbing Inspectors Assn.
Charter Chapter
Illinois Plumbing Code Education
Inland Sales Group, Inc.
Jackel, Inc.
JMI Pump System
KAMCO Representatives

Knapheide Manufacturing
Lyall, Thresher & Associates, Inc.
M. Cooper Winsupply
Metropolitan Industries, Inc.
Mid-Continent Marketing
North Central Sales
Performance Sales and Marketing
Porter Pipe and Supply
RepCo Sales, LLC
T.J. Higgins Co.
Test Gauge Inc.
Toto
TradeKart
Wm. F. Meyer Co.



Support Those Who Support Us!!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

Bloomington / Normal PHCC

Bornquist

Federated Insurance

H.R. Stewart

Illinois PHCC Auxiliary

Midwest Illinois Mechanical Contractors Association

PCA Midwest

Terry Plumbing Co.

STYLE THAT **DROPS IN!**



Acorn-Sinks®, a new line of versatile stainless steel drop in and undermount sinks, features single and double bowl configurations, including for ADA purposes, with hole punch options and sound-deadening pads.

Ideal for commercial and institutional applications such as...

- Classrooms
- Restaurant prep
- Lobby bars
- Office building break rooms
- Healthcare patient rooms
- Assisted living units

Acorn-Sinks feature lasting durability and an appealing aesthetic that complements any countertop. Sinks can be customized with single or double basins, drop-in or undermount styles, and various sizes, faucet configurations, and basin depths.



in f @ X d v

LEARN MORE BY CONTACTING HSA AND FOLLOWING US ON OUR SOCIAL PLATFORMS.

890 Supreme Drive | Bensenville, IL 60106 | 630-458-8816 | www.hsarep.com | quotes@hsarep.com

Thank you to our 2025 Exhibitors



3rd Armor LLC
Added Sales Co.
Allan J. Coleman
Ameren Illinois
American Trenchless Technologies
ASC Engineered Solutions
ASPE
ASSE / IAPMO
Bornquist, Inc.
Cast Iron Soil Pipe Institute
Chicago Water and Fire Restoration
Cla-Val Company
Clean USA Water & Fire Restoration
Control Plus Inc.
Corro-Protec
dahl Valve Limited
Daugherty Sales
Draincables Direct
Duiven McGuire, Inc.
Empact Construction Services
Evergreen Sales
Excel Restoration Services Inc.
Fassett Sales Co.
Federated Insurance Co.
Ferguson Enterprises
Fluid Technologies Inc.
Friedman & Dorrans Sales
Glentronics, Inc.
Granse Trio Sales
Hansgrohe Inc.
HAP System LLC
Hart, Travers & Associates
Herkowski Stickler Associates
Herman Merchant Services
Hodes Company
HOK Sales
Howards Products, Inc.
Illinois Plumbing Code Education
Industrial Solutions Group, A division of Meiji Corp.
Inland Sales Group, Inc.
IPIA
IPS Corporation
Jackel, Inc.
JMI Pump Systems
Kamco Representatives Inc.
Kast Marketing
Knapheide Truck Equipment Center

Kohler Company
Lixil
Lyall, Thresher & Associates
Meditrac
Metropolitan Industries, Inc.
Mid-Continent
Milwaukee Tool
Moen, Inc.
Mongoose Jetters
NIBCO
NICOR Gas Energy Efficiency Programs
North Central Sales
Parkside Restoration
Performance Sales
Picote Solutions, Inc.
Plumbers JAC Local 130
Plumbmaster Inc.
Porter Pipe & Supply Company
Red-White Valve Corp.
Rent Rite Equipment
Repco Sales
RIDGID
Roomeli LLC
Schluter Systems LP
Smarter Flush Marketing LLC
Spartan Tool
T.J. Higgins Company
Test Gauge, Inc.
Thunderbolt Locks, Inc.
Toto USA Inc.
Tramco Pump Co.
Victaulic Co. of America
Viega LLC
WeSupplyTrades
Wireless Support
WorkShare IL
Worldwide Equipment Sales (Hackney)



Support Those Who Support Us!!



PLUMBING INDUSTRY EXPERTISE PERSONIFIED



STEVE STICKLER
& JOE HERKOWSKI

At Herkowsky Stickler and Associates, we foster strong relationships with our customers and manufacturers. Our seasoned sales and technical teams offer a seamless experience before, during, and after the sale.

HSA's enhanced capabilities support customers comprehensively by streamlining our product lines' sales and installation processes. Drawing on years of experience, HSA has evolved through market analysis and foresight, blending expertise with a diverse range of products and services to meet evolving needs.

PROUD TO REPRESENT THESE LEADING MANUFACTURERS



PROUD MEMBER



LEARN MORE BY FOLLOWING HSA ON SOCIAL! [in](#) [f](#) [@](#) [X](#) [d](#) [v](#)

MANDATORY SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

Public Act 101-0221 (commonly referred to as the Workplace Transparency Act), requires Illinois employers to provide sexual harassment prevention training to their employees on an annual basis, regardless of the size of the company.

Under this law, Illinois employers have until December 31st each year to train employees on sexual harassment prevention. The Act provides minimum standards that must be included in the training. To assist your business in complying with this new law, the Illinois Department of Human Rights has posted the following information on its website:

- A FAQ for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
- Minimum Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Standards for All Employers

Employers must either develop their own sexual harassment prevention training program that equals or exceeds the minimum standards for sexual harassment prevention training outlined in Section 2-109(B) of the Illinois Human Rights Act, or they may use the model training provided by the IDHR. The model training program can be downloaded by visiting <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Training/Pages/State-of-Illinois-Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training-Model.aspx>

For more information, please visit IDHR's website at www.illinois.gov/dhr/training.





2026 Exposition Application & Contract March 20, 2026

Company Name: _____
Type or Print Company Name as it is to appear on Printed Material

Booth Preference: Indicate Booth Preference as Shown on Floor Plan.

of 8'x10' Booth spaces _____ Choices 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

All distribution of materials and placement of signs MUST stay within your assigned booth space. No solicitation will be allowed outside of your booth space. No trucks, trailers or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of Drury Lane without the permission of the Illinois PHCC.

Booth Costs: One to three booths - \$1195 each. Four or more booths - \$1155 each.

Discount price for Illinois PHCC Associate Members:

One to three booths - \$995 each. Four or more booths - \$955 each.

\$250.00 deposit per booth must accompany application form. 3% discount if full amount of booth cost is paid prior to December 31, 2025. BALANCE MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 2026.

Make check payable to: Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62704

Company _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City / State / Zip _____

Contact _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Signature _____

The following products or services will be displayed: _____

Space assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please furnish all information requested. Cancellation must be by mutual consent of the applicant and the Illinois PHCC. A copy of the accepted contract will be emailed to you. If the contract is canceled prior to January 1, 2026 a full refund will be made. No refunds after January 2, 2026. Booth space contracted without deposit will be made available as space is needed. Illinois PHCC will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods or damage to the Drury Lane Conference Center. *In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Illinois PHCC Association will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at its meetings. Please call 800-795-7422 with any special requests.*

Booth Assignment(s) _____

Date ____/____/____ Signed: _____

Illinois PHCC Executive Director/Show Manager

Illinois PHCC Exhibitor Terms and Conditions

Management: This event is sponsored by the Illinois Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors Association (IL PHCC), herein designated as the "Management". Management has the sole authority to accept or reject an application to exhibit in any Illinois PHCC Expo and to determine which exhibitors are the best fit for attendees. An Exhibitor is an applicant for booth space that has been accepted for participation in the trade show by Management.

Booth Assignment: Management reserves the right to make all final decisions for booth assignment, layout, and configuration. Every effort will be made to assign the exhibitor's requested booth choices. Participation is at the sole discretion of Management and reserves the right to cancel any exhibitor.

Display Restrictions: All products, services, or literature displayed must fit within the allotted 8' x 10' booth space. Exhibits may not project beyond the space allotted or interfere with traffic, other exhibits, including line of sight. Exhibits may not extend into any aisle. Management reserves the right without recourse to prohibit any portion of any exhibit, which in its opinion is not suitable, or in keeping with the character of the event. This reservation of rights by Management applies to persons, things, conduct, printed matter, catalogs, and any other material relating to or affecting the event. No signs, banners, or flyers may be displayed or distributed outside of assigned booth space. The use of any public area outside of assigned booth space for the display of signage, solicitation, products, services, demonstrations, distribution of circulars, or other material is prohibited. Anyone not assigned a booth space will not be permitted to solicit business or distribute information/samples on the show floor or anywhere inside or outside the tradeshow facility. No trucks, trailers, or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of or in the parking area of the Drury Lane Conference Center without permission of the Management.

Food and Beverage: Absolutely no alcohol is to be given out or sold in any booth. Alcohol must be purchased from the bars provided and staffed by the trade show facility. Food and beverages must be purchased from the facility and only with prior approval of Management. Snack size or smaller candy or snacks may be given out. There is to be no use of popcorn machines, chocolate fountains, microwaves, etc. without written approval by the Management and the facility.

Liability and Insurance: Neither the Management nor the Drury Lane Conference Center will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods, or damage to the Drury Lane Conference Center. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain such insurance. Exhibitors are liable for the cost of repairing any damage to the facility caused by the exhibitor, its employees, representatives, or agents.

No Conflicts: There shall be no activities planned in conflict with this event.

Force Majeure: If the event venue or any part of the exhibit area is unavailable whether for the entire event, or a portion of the event as a result of wind, fire, flood, natural disaster or any other such cause or as a result of governmental intervention, malicious damage, acts of war, terrorism, strike, lockout, riot or other cause or agency over which Management has no control, or should Management decide that because of any such cause it is necessary to cancel, postpone, or re-site the event or reduce the exhibit time, Management shall not be liable to indemnify or reimburse the Exhibitor in respect of any damage, loss, direct or indirect, arising as a result thereof.

I agree to the above terms and conditions as well as those included on the contract.

Signature _____ Company Name _____

Date _____

**Your Employees
Are A Key Piece
Of Your Business**

Strategies For Retaining Key Employees



Commercial Insurance | Property & Casualty | Life & Disability Income | Workers Compensation | Business Succession and Estate Planning | Bonding

Keeping your key employees with your company is beneficial. Private bonus plans provide strong incentives for top team members to remain with your business. Stand out among other employers while creating a positive workplace where employees feel valued.

The content of this publication is for general information purposes only and should not be considered legal advice or an offer of insurance. Coverage will be determined solely by the terms of your policy, if approved for issue. Consult with a qualified professional to discuss questions specific to your circumstances.

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries* | federatedinsurance.com

25.07 Ed. 10/24 *Not licensed in all states. © 2024 Federated Mutual Insurance Company



Scan to learn about the benefits of key person coverage and Federated's® Triple Protection PlanSM to help you retain your valued employees.



PLUMBING CODE BOOK ORDER FORM

**PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY.
WE WILL USE THIS INFORMATION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY.**

Name: _____

Company: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cost \$60.95/Code Book

(includes tabs, Plumbing License Law, Plumbers Licensing Code,
Plumbing Contractor Registration Code and
Lawn Irrigation Contractor & Lawn Sprinkler Code)

_____ of code book(s) X \$60.95

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail form with payment to:

**Illinois PHCC
821 South Grand Avenue, West
Springfield, IL 62704**

Make checks payable to the Illinois PHCC.

There will be a \$40.00 service charge for any checks returned due to insufficient funds.

Questions? Contact the Illinois PHCC at bev@ilphcc.com or shelly@ilphcc.com

(217) 522-7219

DON'T LET UNWANTED WATER INTO THEIR HOME

Offer your customers **the best** flood protection solutions with **Ion Technologies.**



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FLOOD PROTECTION AT:

ion Technologies

(815) 886-9200
WWW.IONPROTECTS.COM

Ion® 35ACi Deluxe
Dual Pump Battery Backup System

 **Metropolitan
Industries, Inc.**

 **Emmons
Metro LLC**



Illinois Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Application for Membership

Please print or type

Business Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Illinois Plumbing Contractor's Registration Number _____

(For those involved in Plumbing Contracting)

☐ Union Shop ☐ Open Shop

Type of Business Activities

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Plumbing | ☐ Backflow Inspection...EPA Backflow |
| ☐ HVAC | Cert. # _____ |
| ☐ Hydronics | ☐ Refrigeration |
| ☐ Process Piping | ☐ Commercial |
| ☐ Fire Sprinkler Systems | ☐ Industrial |
| ☐ Underground Utilities | ☐ Residential |
| | ☐ Service/Repair..... ☐ 24 hr. service |

Signed _____ Date _____

The State Investment is \$245.00. The National Membership Investment is \$574.00. State and National are presented as a package for \$819.00 and may not be split. The Investment period is January 1 through December 31 and may be prorated on a monthly basis. Please make checks payable to Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Avenue, West, Springfield, IL 62704.

Please Note: Dues, contributions or gifts to PHCC are not deductible as charitable contributions. However they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

As per the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993, 5% of the Illinois PHCC and 5% of PHCC-NA dues are attributable to lobbying expense and are not deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

QUESTIONS....1.800.795.7422



In 2024, OSHA conducted 34,625 inspections nationwide, while Illinois OSHA and federal OSHA together performed 3,445 inspections in Illinois. These efforts were aimed at protecting over five million workers across the state. Although the chances of an OSHA inspection are relatively low, factors such as operating in a high-risk industry sector, elevated injury and illness rates, experiencing a severe injury, or worker complaints can attract OSHA's attention and lead to an inspection. In this month's article, we will describe the typical OSHA inspection process.

OSHA's enforcement activities include inspections that involve an investigation after an incident has occurred as well as inspections that are not triggered by a workplace injury. Both types follow these steps: site entry, opening conference, walkaround, closing, and reporting results.

Entry:

Once a worksite is selected for inspection, the OSHA compliance officer will gather information about the employer prior to arrival. They may do this through pre-entry observation or by other data sources. It is also important to recognize that OSHA does not provide advance notice of inspections. Upon arrival, the compliance officer will introduce themselves by presenting their credentials and request to speak with the highest-level manager present. The compliance officer should be escorted to a conference room for an opening conference.

Opening Conference:

The opening conference is for explaining the purpose of the inspection as well as for gathering information such as OSHA logs, plans, training records, and employee lists. The scope of the inspection influences the documents requested. The opening conference is the employer's opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of the inspection ahead.

Walkaround:

The scope of the inspection influences the extent of the walkaround. For example, complaint-triggered inspections focus on specific areas, while comprehensive inspections can encompass the entire workplace. The employer representative who accompanies the compliance officer should take their own notes and photos. The officer may request clarification on work practices and training during the walkaround. They may also conduct confidential employee interviews.

Closing Conference:

During the closing conference, the compliance officer will present their initial findings, discuss potential violations, and outline steps to immediately correct observed hazards. An overview of employer rights and obligations will be given, along with information on the Illinois Department of Labor's On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program.



Results:

If violations are issued, a citation will be mailed to the address and addressee provided to OSHA during the opening conference. The abatement timeline begins once the citation packet issued, so employers should not waste time understanding their obligations and options. Employers must post the citation packet so employees can review it. Employers can accept the results of an inspection and focus on abatement, contest citations and penalties through an informal process (discussing with an OSHA area director), or file a formal contest (administrative law process).

Once a citation is issued, the data is posted on a U.S. Department of Labor database accessible to everyone. This is one way predatory safety and health consultation firms may target employers after an OSHA inspection. The Illinois Department of Labor's On-Site program exists to assist small and medium-sized employers in preparing for potential OSHA inspections and providing abatement support afterward. This program, offered at no cost, delivers the support and guidance needed to identify hazards, develop a hierarchy of controls, and establish a lasting safety and health program. Visit <https://worksafe.illinois.gov/> or contact Harry (Hap) Hileman with the Illinois Department of Labor at 217-993-2111 or harry.hileman@illinois.gov for more information.



* The 21(d) On-Site Consultation Cooperative Agreement is funded by a federal grant, constituting ninety percent of the overall budget. State funds finance ten percent.

Source: OSHA Fact Sheet - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Inspections



HODES CO
PREFERRED PLUMBING PARTS
Family Owned and Operated Since 1943

**Free Net Priced
Full Line
Buyers Catalog**

1-800-777-6500
www.HodesCo.com

**Free Same
Day Shipping on
Over 10,000
Pro Quality
Plumbing Parts**

**SIX MONTH
PRICE FREEZE**

HONOR THY PLUMBER™

- Toilet and Tank Repair
- Tubular and Supplies
- Valves, Fittings and Pipe Repair
- Chemicals, Tools, and Utility
- Faucets and External Trim
- Internal Faucet Repair

How Can You Shield Your Business From Theft?

Security is essential to the stability and success of any business. Theft, whether from external intruders or [internal threats](#), can disrupt operations and result in significant financial losses. Thankfully, you can help reduce these risks by using [key theft prevention strategies](#). Here are five tips to consider:

1. Install Security Cameras and Alarms

- **Security cameras:** Place cameras at critical areas, such as entrances, exits, and storage rooms. Choose systems with high-definition recording and real-time alerts to monitor activity effectively. Bringing on a service that monitors for you can help boost effectiveness.
- **Alarms:** Install alarm systems with motion sensors on doors and windows. Test alarms regularly to ensure they work properly.

2. Secure Doors and Windows

- Use solid-core doors with durable locks to prevent forced entry.
- Install window security laminates to reduce the risk of break-ins.
- Lock all doors and windows during and after business hours to help protect your business.

3. Monitor Key Access

- Keep a record of employees who have keys or access codes.
- Have employees return keys and update access codes whenever a staff member leaves the company.
- Limit access to sensitive areas to authorized personnel only.

4. Maintain a Well-Lit Space

- Light all entrances, exits, and parking areas strategically.
- Use motion-activated outdoor lighting to detect unexpected movement after hours.

5. Encourage Employee Vigilance

- [Train employees](#) to report any suspicious activity right away.
- Teach them proper closing procedures, including securing assets and setting alarms.
- Hold regular meetings to review [security protocols](#) and stress the importance of shared responsibility.

[Reach out to your local Federated Insurance® marketing representative](#) today for more information on theft prevention. Clients can access [mySHIELD®](#) for additional industry-specific safety resources.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. Some of the services referenced herein may be provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated. Federated provides access to these services with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances and applicable laws.

SkillsUSA Selects Connecticut Plumbing Apprentice for 2026 WorldSkills Competition



***PHCC Educational Foundation, UA, IAPMO teaming up to train Charles Goede
for the prestigious international event in Shanghai***

SkillsUSA has selected Charles Goede of Watertown, Conn., as the official U.S. competitor for Plumbing and Heating for the 2026 WorldSkills Competition. This prestigious international skills competition, often referred to as the “Olympics of skilled trades,” will be held Sept. 22 -27, 2026, in Shanghai, China.

WorldSkills brings together young people, industry, education, and government leaders from around the world to advance career and technical education and training. Competitors vie for international honors in skill competitions, showcasing dozens of trade skills.

Goede, the first competitor to be named to the WorldSkills USA delegation, is a plumbing apprentice and graduate from Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton, Conn. As the SkillsUSA Connecticut high school state champion in 2024, he went on to place second in the nation in the plumbing competition at that year’s SkillsUSA Championships during the National Leadership & Skills Conference held annually in Atlanta.

“I am honored to be representing the United States for plumbing and heating,” Goede said of the opportunity to compete internationally. “I will be able to show not only the dedication I have for my career but the pride I have in my craftsmanship of the trade.”

To prepare him for WorldSkills, Goede will receive comprehensive support and training from a coalition of industry leaders, including the UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 JATC, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC), and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). Providing him technical expertise will be Robert Hahn, a plumbing and heating instructor at Eastwick College, HoHokus School of Trades, and Larry Shoemaker, owner of Deluxe Plumbing & Heating LLC and a member of the PHCC Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Additionally, the PHCC Educational Foundation is playing a critical role in Goede’s preparation, providing both financial and logistical support to ensure he is ready to compete on the international stage.

“My experience being a plumber so far is amazing,” Goede said. “Every day you learn something new. I chose this career because I like working with my hands, job security, and being able to see all these different projects come together flawlessly.”

“We are incredibly proud to support Charles as he represents the U.S. at WorldSkills,” said Dan Quinonez, Executive Director of the PHCC Educational Foundation and Chief Operating Officer of the National Association. “His exceptional skill, hard work and dedication are a testament to the future of the plumbing trade. Investing in talented young professionals like Charles is not just a point of pride for us, it’s a crucial commitment to ensuring our industry’s continued growth and success.”

“At the United Association, our gold-standard registered apprenticeship program means our members are the best trained and most highly skilled craftspeople in the industry,” said Mark McManus, General President of the United Association (UA). “Charles represents the very best of the UA, and we could not be prouder to support him as he represents the United States at WorldSkills in Shanghai next fall. His dedication, hard work and commitment to his craft will be on full display, showcasing more than 135 years of UA training and education.”

Recognizing the value of international skills competitions in elevating the trades, IAPMO CEO Dave Viola voiced strong support for Goede’s journey to WorldSkills.

“IAPMO is honored to support Charles as he represents the United States on the world stage,” Viola said. “WorldSkills celebrates the highest level of craftsmanship, and Charles’ achievement is a powerful reminder of the talent and dedication that will carry our industry into the future. By investing in young professionals, we are strengthening the plumbing trade not only here at home but across the globe.”

The 48th WorldSkills Competition will welcome about 1,500 competitors from over 80 countries and regions to take part in more than 60 skill competitions, showcasing dozens of trade skills from construction and building technology, creative arts and fashion, information and communication technology, manufacturing and engineering, social and personal services, and transportation and logistics.

SkillsUSA will announce the official WorldSkills USA team sponsors and other team members and their experts over the next few months.

About WorldSkills USA

WorldSkills USA is the official U.S. representative to WorldSkills International, which is a global organization dedicated to raising the profile and recognition of skilled professionals. Since 1973, WorldSkills USA has been managed and represented by SkillsUSA.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 444,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand

occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served over 15 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at skillsusa.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

About WorldSkills

Since 1950, WorldSkills has come to symbolize the pinnacle of excellence in vocational training. It provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy. The continued growth of WorldSkills attests to the fact that traditional trade and craft skills, along with newer technology's multi-skilled occupations, make an essential contribution to the economic and social well-being of people everywhere. For more information, go to: www.worldskills.org.

About PHCC Educational Foundation

Founded in 1987, the PHCC Educational Foundation is a partnership of contractors, manufacturers, and wholesalers committed to advancing the plumbing-heating-cooling industry through high-quality education and workforce development. Learn more at <https://phccfoundation.org>.



A division of DARLING RESTAURANT SERVICES

GREASE REMOVAL, PUMPING, JETTING



Our Vactor Truck is the most powerful vehicle in the industry, which can open even the most clogged lines. Using state-of-the-art equipment like this enables TORVAC to do the job right the first time and every time!

Trust Torvac to eliminate the headaches that come along with cooking oil removal, grease trap pumping and water jetting of your sewer lines.

SIGN UP NOW FOR SPECIAL PRICE SAVINGS ON OUR MAINTENANCE SERVICE TO PREVENT LINE BLOCKAGES!

- Cooking Oil Removal
- 7 Day/24 Hour Service
- Fastest Response Time
- We Guarantee Against Sewer Backups
- Serving All Major Markets Across the U.S.

**For More Information
Call Our Service Team Today
(888) 486-7822**



Illinois Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

Associate Membership Application

Please print or type

Contact Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Please Check As Many As Apply

- ☐ Manufacturer
- ☐ Manufacturer's Rep
- ☐ Wholesalers
- ☐ Supply House
- ☐ Business Needs (i.e., insurance, business supplies, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please indicate)

My check for \$250.00 is enclosed

As an Illinois PHCC Associate Member, we agree that our firm and its staff will abide by the PHCC Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and will conduct business in a legal and ethical manner.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please send completed form to:
Illinois PHCC • 821 South Grand Avenue, West • Springfield, IL 62704.
Fax: (217) 522-4315

QUESTIONS?....1-800-795-7422



Illinois Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

Inspector Application for Membership

Please print or type

Name_____

Company Name_____

Address_____

City_____ County_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email_____

Illinois Plumber's License Number_____

(If applicable)

Please answer the following questions:

Are you also a contractor? _____ (if yes, you do not qualify for this membership category)

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? _____

Are you a member of the IPIA? _____ If yes, which chapter: _____

Are you a member of the IPEA? _____ If yes, which chapter: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$40.00

Signed _____ Date_____

The Investment period is January 1 through December 31. Please send completed form and check payable to Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Avenue, West, Springfield, IL 62704.

QUESTIONS....1.800.795.7422



PO Box 5007
2800 N.E. Adams St.
Peoria, IL 61601-5007
309-688-1068 309-688-4120

“Best Products....Best Prices....Best Service”

Connor Co. has been family owned business since 1936, servicing and building relationships with companies in the Plumbing, HVAC, and Industrial PVF industries. Connor Co. has twenty-three locations that work together with vendors to provide the best products to our loyal customers. Our customers are the most valued asset to Connor Co. By staying committed to our motto **“Best Products...Best Prices...Best Service”** Connor Co. will continue to provide quality products and build customer relationships.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| - Peoria, IL 61615
1209 W. Pioneer Parkway
PH: 309-693-7229 | - Bloomington, IL
413 E. Oakland Ave.
PH: 309-828-000 | - Quincy, IL 62301
1328 Seminary Rd.
PH: 217-228-7898 |
| - Macomb, IL 61455
433 N. Campbell
PH: 309-833-2148 | - Galesburg, IL 61401
2315 Grand Ave.
PH: 309-342-7000 | - Collinsville, IL 62234
#3 Business Center Court
PH: 618-344-9200 |
| - Kankakee, IL 60901
1600 Grinnell Road
PH: 815-933-6688 | - McHenry, IL 60051
3918 N. Richmond Road
PH: 815-385-4404 | - Decatur, IL 62526
3130 N. Grand Prix Dr.
PH: 217-875-5626 |
| - Urbana, IL 61801
1900 N. Lincoln Ave.
PH: 217-367-7601 | - Danville, IL 61832
520 E. Fairchild
PH: 217-446-1818 | - Marion, IL 62959
801 Skyline Dr.
PH: 618-993-1031 |
| - Peru, IL 61354
3 Terminal Road
PH: 815-224-1205 | - Rockford, IL 61109
3537 Merchandise Dr.
PH: 815-874-1515 | - Jacksonville, IL 62650
630 Brooklyn Ave.
PH: 217-243-3411 |
| - Sugar Grove, IL 60554
694 Heartland Dr.
PH: 630-466-3284 | - Terre Haute, IN 47802
2800 S. State Road 63
PH: 812-232-3333 | - Freeport, IL 61032
1201 W. Galena Ave
PH: 815-235-7789 |
| - Moline, IL 61265
4200 46th Ave.
PH: 309-797-3715 | - Lafayette, IN 47905
851 Farabee Court
PH: 765-448-4553 | - St. Louis, MO 63146
2374 Grissom Dr
PH: 314-994-9799 |
| - Springfield, IL 62703
1400 South 9th St.
PH: 217-544-9612 | - Frankfort, IN 46041
1599 McKinley Ave
PH: 765-659-5780 | - Comfort Supply
Peoria, IL 61603
2800 NE Adams St.
PH: 309-688-4407 |
| - Mattoon, IL 61938
1421 Old State Road
PH: 217-235-4328 | - Crawfordsville, IN 47933
2300 Indianapolis Road
PH: 765-362-0481 | |





AUTOMATIC CONTROL VALVE & PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE

ACV

- ✓ Whole Valves
- ✓ Repair Parts
- ✓ CEU Class

INSTALLATION TYPE

- ✓ Domestic/Hot Water
- ✓ Booster Pumps
- ✓ Fire Protection

CONTACT US

866-836-8692

IL-franchise@testgauge.net

www.shopbackflow.com

**1051 East Main Street, Unit 107
East Dundee, IL 60118**